

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

- Claims 1-20 and 25-30 are pending in the Application after entry of this amendment.
- Claims 21-24 have been cancelled.
- New Claims 26-30 are presented for Examination.
- Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-23, and 25-32 are rejected by Examiner.
- Claims 1, 4-8, 11-15 are amended by Applicant.

New Claims

Applicant adds new Claims 25-30 to further claim subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant finds support for the new claims in Figure 2 and the corresponding description in paragraphs 47-53. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Cancelled Claims

Claims 21-24, previously withdrawn in response to a restriction requirement dated May 19, 2005, are now cancelled by Applicant. A divisional application based on now-cancelled Claims 21-24 was filed on August 18, 2006.

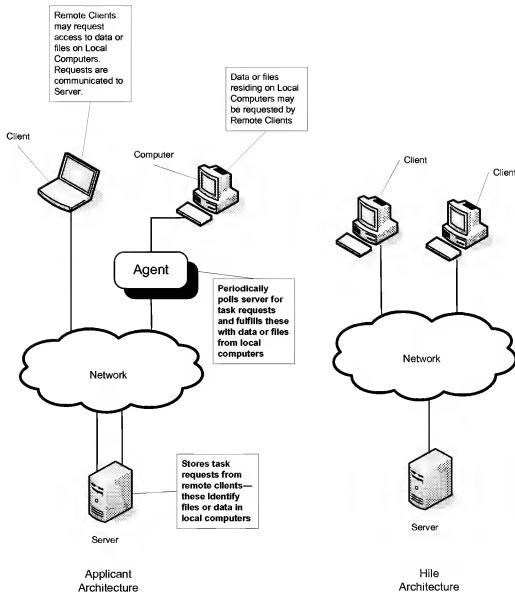
Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action dated 5/2/2006, Claims 1 – 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hile (US 2002/0023140). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Hile Does Not Anticipate the Claimed Invention

Applicant amends the claims to clarify certain recitations, which patentably distinguish the claimed subject matter over Hile's disclosure. The illustration below further clarifies the distinctions. Independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 are directed to a system in which a "local agent

module" operates independently to poll a server for task requests, and upload data or files to the server from one or more local computers as identified in the task request. This approach to providing remote data and file access is non-obvious in view of the approach described by Hile.



In the above figure, Applicant compares the general architectures of one embodiment of the present invention (left) and the Hile architecture (right).

Hile describes an electronic file delivery system in which a server controls transfer of data files across a network. (See Hile, Fig. 1, and the Hile architecture replicated above.) In Hile,

the server subsystem includes a server application which is responsible for coordinating the execution of electronic document transfer requests. A requesting application residing on a sending computer establishes a network connection to the server and registers an electronic document send request. A transfer application associated with the same user computer establishes a second network connection to the server application and retrieves document send requests from the server. The transfer application also operates to transfer electronic documents to the server in response to a received send request. When a receiving user computer is notified of a pending file transfer, a receiving application resident on the user computer establishes a network connection to the server application to view/select pending deliveries, and a resident transfer application establishes a second network connection to the server and retrieves electronic document receive requests and /or electronics documents from the server. See also Hile paras. 0027-0029.

In contradistinction to Hile, Applicant's Claim 1 is directed to a method "for use by a local agent module associated with one or more local computers" responding to requests for data "on at least one local computer." The claimed method includes the ability for the local agent to operate in accordance with a "schedule timer" to provide the server, and by extension remote clients connected to the server, with access to data or files residing in one or more of the local computers (for example in a local area network -- see Specification paras. 37-38, and above figure). The local agent module therefore serves to make available data for files that reside on one or more local computers, which includes the ability to access local source information including but not limited to local file structure information (see Specification para. 95). The local agent is responsive to "task requests" received from the server during periodic polling intervals.

By contrast, Hile discloses a system where an electronic document transfer is initiated by a sending application and sent to a receiving application. The transfer function is resident on the sending computer, and the transfer of documents is limited to that which is initiated for upload by the sending application (see Hile para. 0018). In other words, users can receive documents if initiated by a sending application. A local agent that enables access to data or files on a plurality of local devices is neither disclosed nor suggested by Hile.

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PATENT

Claims 8 and 15 patentably define over Hile at least for similar reasoning as that described with respect to Claim 1. Moreover, inasmuch as Claims 2-6, 8-14, and 16-20 depend from Claims 1, 8 and 15, Applicant submit that they also patentably define over Hile at least for the reasons set forth above.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims patentably define over the cited art. Continued examination of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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